Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus which executes copy control utilizing copy control information which is formed by plural bits of digital data and indicative of plural types of copy control, comprising:

an electronic watermark detection ~~means~~ section which detects only a predetermined certain ~~bits~~bit of digital data in said copy control information out of a content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed; and

a recording ~~means~~ section which records said content in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~section.

2.   (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus of claim 1 which is an SD apparatus complying with the SDMI control method,

wherein said copy control information is available in three types of "copy_freely", "copy_one_generation" and "no_more_copy", and

said predetermined certain ~~bits~~ bit of digital data expressing "no_more_copy".

3.   (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus of claim 1 which is a recording apparatus complying with the CPPM control method or the CPRM control method,

wherein said copy control information is available in three types of "copy_freely", "copy_one_generation" and "no_more_copy", and

said predetermined certain ~~bits~~ bit of digital data expressing "no_more_copy".

4.   (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus of claim 2, wherein when the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~ section indicates detection of said "no_more_copy", said recording ~~means~~ section does not record said content, and when the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~ section indicates that said "no_more_copy" is not detected, said recording ~~means~~ section records said content.

5.   (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus of claim 3, wherein when the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~ section indicates detection of said "no_more_copy", said recording ~~means~~ section does not record said content, and when the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~ section indicates that said "no_more_copy" is not detected, said recording ~~means~~ section records said content.

6.   (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus of claim 2, wherein said recording ~~means~~ section encrypts and records said content.

7.   (Original) The recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein said content is an audio content.

8-10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently Amended) A playback apparatus which executes playback control utilizing copy control information which is indicative of plural types of copy control, comprising:

an electronic watermark detection ~~means~~ section which ~~do~~ does not detect said copy control information out of an SDMI-protected content recorded by an SD apparatus complying with an SDMI control method when said content is to be played back, but when an SDMI-unprotected content, which is a content other than said SDMI-protected content, is to be played back, detects only a predetermined copy control information portion of said copy control information out of said content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed; and

a playback ~~means~~ section which plays back said content when playback of said SDMI-protected content is desired, and ~~play~~ plays back said content in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~ section when playback of said SDMI-unprotected content is desired.

12.   (Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 11 wherein said copy control information is available in three types of "copy_freely", "copy_one_generation" and "no_more_copy", and

said predetermined copy control information portion is "no_more_copy".

13.   (Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 12 wherein when playback of said SDMI-unprotected content is desired, said playback means section does not play back said content if the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection means section indicates detection of said "no_more_copy", but said playback means section plays back said content if the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection means section indicates that said "no_more_copy" is not detected.

14.   (Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 11 wherein said content is an audio content.

15.   (Currently Amended) A multi-function apparatus which executes copy control utilizing copy control information which is indicative of plural types of copy control, comprising:

an electronic watermark detection means section which detects copy control information out of a content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed;

a recording means section which records said content in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection meanssection; and

a playback means section which plays back said content in accordance with a the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection meanssection,

wherein for recording of said content, said electronic watermark detection means section detects only a predetermined copy control information portion of said copy control information out of a said content over which an the electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed, and

for playback of said content, said electronic watermark detection means section detects all of said copy control information out of a said content over which an the electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed.

16.   (Currently Amended) A recording means which executesmethod of executing copy control utilizing copy control information which is formed by plural bits of digital data and indicative of plural types of copy control, comprising:

an electronic watermark detection step which detects only a predetermined certain bits

bit of digital data in said copy control information out of a content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed; and

a recording step which records said content in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~step.

17.   (Currently Amended) A playback method of executing playback control utilizing copy control information which is indicative of plural types of copy control, comprising:

an electronic watermark detecting step at which when an SDMI-protected content recorded by an SD apparatus complying with ~~the~~ an SDMI control method is to be played back, detection of said copy control information out of said content is not performed, and when an SDMI-unprotected content, which is a content other than said SDMI-protected content, is to be played back, only a predetermined copy control information portion of said copy control information is detected out of said content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed; and

a playing back step at which said content is played back when playback of said SDMI-protected content is desired, and when playback of said SDMI-unprotected content is desired, said content is played back in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark ~~detection means~~detecting step.

18.   (Currently Amended) A recording/playback method for use in a multi-function apparatus which executes copy control utilizing copy control information which is indicative of plural types of copy control, comprising:

an electronic watermark detecting step detecting copy control information out of a content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed;

a recording step recording said content in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark ~~detection means~~detecting step; and

a playing back step playing back said content in accordance with ~~a~~ the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark ~~detection means~~detecting step,

wherein when recording of said content is desired, at said electronic watermark detecting

step, only a predetermined copy control information portion of said copy control information is detected out of a~~-~~said content over which ~~an~~-the electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed, and

when playing back of said content is desired, at said electronic watermark ~~detection~~ detecting step, all of said copy control information is detected out of a~~-~~said content over which ~~an~~-the electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed.

19.   (Currently Amended) A recording medium which can be processed on a computer and which holds a program of the recording apparatus of claim 1, said recording medium makes a computer function as:

a part of an electronic watermark detection ~~means~~-section which detects only a predetermined certain ~~bits~~-bit of digital data in said copy control information out of a content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed; and

a part of a recording ~~means~~-section which records said content in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~section.

20.   (Currently Amended) A recording medium which can be processed on a computer and which holds a program of the playback apparatus of claim 11, said recording medium makes a computer function as:

a part of an electronic watermark detection ~~means~~-section which does not detect said copy control information out of an SDMI-protected content recorded by an SD apparatus complying with ~~the~~-an SDMI control method when ~~such a~~said content is to be played back, but when an SDMI-unprotected content, which is a content other than said SDMI-protected content, is to be played back, detects only a predetermined copy control information portion of said copy control information out of said content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed; and

a part of a playback ~~means~~-section which plays back said content when playback of said SDMI-protected content is desired, and plays back said content in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~-section when playback of said SDMI-unprotected content is desired.

21.   (Currently Amended) A recording medium which can be processed on a computer and which holds a program of the multi-function apparatus of claim 15, said recording medium makes a computer function as:

a part of an electronic watermark detection ~~means~~ section which detects copy control information out of a content over which an electronic watermark expressing said copy control information is superimposed;

a part of a recording ~~means~~ section which records said content in accordance with a detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~section; and

a part of a playback ~~means~~ section which plays back said content in accordance with ~~a~~ the detection result obtained by said electronic watermark detection ~~means~~section.